

MASON'S
COIN AND STAMP COLLECTORS'
MAGAZINE.

VOL. III.

MAY, 1869.

No 5.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF CONTINENTAL PAPER MONEY.

BY SAMUEL BRECK, ESQ.

In this brief History of Continental Paper Money, I shall endeavor to trace its origin, rapid increase, and downfall; the cause of its depreciation; the honest intention of Congress to redeem it; set forth the mode suggested by that body for its full payment, and incidentally show its powerful, if not indispensable agency in gaining our independence.

I propose, moreover, to demonstrate that the non-redemption of that paper money operated upon the people of that day, by its gradual depreciation (until its final extinction), as nothing more than a moderate tax; that no sentiment of repudiation was ever entertained by Congress; that many examples, before and since, both in Europe and America, may be alleged in extenuation of the neglect this paper met with; and I shall conclude with a short review (by a foreign pen principally) of the temper of the people during the Revolution; the effect, this unsettled currency, for so long a period, had on their morals; and attempt a comparison between the Americans of that day and of this.

On the 10th of May, 1775, immediately after the battle of Lexington, Congress prepared its first emission of Continental Colonial Bills, and on the 22d of June, as soon as the news of the battle of Bunker Hill reached Philadelphia,

two millions of Spanish milled dollars (so called), purporting to be for the defence of America, were put in circulation, the confederated Colonies standing pledged for their redemption.

Congress appointed twenty-eight citizens of Philadelphia to sign and number the bills, the names of two being necessary to each bill. Each gentleman was allowed, out of the Continental Treasury, one dollar and one-third for each and every thousand bills signed and numbered by him.

At foot will be found the names of the persons entrusted with this duty.*

Contracts were made with printers for proper paper, and for printing them. To administer these paper funds, joint treasurers were appointed at a salary of five hundred dollars; and the number of inhabitants of all ages, including negroes and mulattoes, in each Colony, was taken, by approximation, of course, in order to levy the ways and means to pay the bills whenever they should be presented at the Treasury. They were

*Luke Morris, Daniel Clymer Anthony Morris Jos. Sims, Samuel Meredith, John M. Nesbit Mordecai Lewis, John Shee, Judah Foulke, Thomas Barclay, Geo. Mifflin, Wm. Craige, Samuel Morris John Bayard, Robt. Tuckniss, John Mease, Frederick Kuhls, Thomas Bartow, Andrew Bunner, Ellis Lewis, Robert S. Jones, Isaac Hazlehurst, Wm Jackson, Thomas Combe, Robert Morris, James Milligan, Thomas Lawrance, James Reed.

taken for taxes and cancelled; and in order to keep up their credit, the treasurers were directed, whenever they happened to receive silver or gold, to advertise their readiness to pay the same for Continental bills to all persons requiring an exchange.

(To be Continued.)

HISTORY OF U. S. MEDALS.

Including Presidential, Army, Navy, and Miscellaneous.

BY E. M. JR.

(Continued).

A gold medal was awarded by Congress, Sept., 24th. 1779, to Major Henry Lee, for his gallantry and courage in attacking a body of British troops and Fort Paulus Hook, N. J., July, 19th, 1779. Obverse, bust of Major Lee, *Legend*, HENRICO LEE, LEGIONIS EQUIT, PRAEFECTO, EXERGUE, COMITA AMERICANA, *Reverse Legend*, NON OBSTANTIBE FLUMINIBUS, VALLIS, ASTULIA ET VIRTUTE BELLICA, PARVA MANU HOSTIS VICIT VICTOSQ, ARMIS HUMANITATE DEVINXIT, IN MEM., PUGN, AD PAULUS HOOK, DIE XIX AUG., MDCLXXIX. *Size 36.

On Nov., 3d, 1780, John Paulding, David Williams, and Isaac Van Wert, were each awarded by Congress a silver Medal for arresting Major Andre, the spy, and thereby destroying the conspiracy concocted by Benedict Arnold, the traitor, with the British Commander. These medals were oblong, size 26x34, and were presented to the brave and faithful recipients, by Genl. Washington, 1781, in presence of the American army. In addition to the medal, a copy of a resolution of Congress was presented, awarding each participant in the fortunate capture of Andre, with an annual pension of \$200, for life, and a

vote of thanks, handsomely engrossed on parchment, for their gallant and meritorious behaviour upon the occasion.

The Medals were alike on obverse and reverse; the former presenting a shield in *bas relief*, surrounded by a semi wreath of laurel and palm, *Legend*, FIDELITY. *Reverse*, a circular wreath of palm branches, within which a blank space was left for the insertion of name, &c. *Legend*, VINCIT AMOR PATRIAE.

(To be Continued).

COIN SALE IN CANADA.

A public sale of the "large collection of coins, belonging to J. L. Bronson, late Pre'st of the Numismatic Society," as the title page of the catalogue reads, was held at No. 361, Notre Dame St., Montreal, on Thursday, April 8th. There were 2246 coins sold, realizing \$134,78, or about an average of 6c. each.

Among the interesting and valuable U. S. Coins, was a 1793 cent, to which particular attention was called in the catalogue, as being in "very fine" order; and what think ye, enthusiastic lovers of fine '93 cents, this choice coin brought under the hammer in Canada? *Three Cents!* And that was not all, an entire collection of U. S. cents, with varieties (from 1793 to 1857, inclusive), was sold for the paltry sum of \$2,25! Washington North Wales token, brought 15c. Double Head Washington cent, 20c. Washington Copper 1783, 15c. Louisiana cent 1722, 20c. Franklin cent, 10c. Vermont cent, 5c. Mass. cent, 15c. *Nova Ebor* (N. Y.) cent, 15c. Kentucky cent, 80c. *Georgin Triumpho*, 15c. N. A. token, 2c. Talbot Album and Lee cent, 1795, 2c. A set of U. S. $\frac{1}{2}$ cents, about 9c. each. After the American series had reached No. 515, a reaction took place, and a Feuchtwan-

*Date on the medal, by error of engraver, is made 1679, should be 1779.

ger composition cent was run up to 20c. The reader can judge of the numismatic fever in Canada, by reference to this remarkable and *unique* sale.

Will some of our Canadian friends let us know when the next sale comes off in their Dominion, and we will put a hundred or two of dollars in our pocket, pay them a visit, at the same time buy the entire catalogue of all similar "large collections." Look at our last Philadelphia sale, Canadians, and blush for your country. We had 950 lots, and realized \$1500, an average of nearly \$1.75 each.

BOSTON COIN SALE

A small collection of coins were sold by Leonard & Co., in Tremont Street, on Friday, April 16th. As we have received no priced catalogue as yet, we are unable to give the result—may do so in our next Number.

NEW YORK COIN SALE.

From the present indications, our readers may look for a sale of choice coins in New York, sometime in May. Hope to have notice and catalogue in time for June number of our journal.

Prepare to be astonished, ye timid numismatists, not only at the condition and rarity of the pieces, but at the catalogue full of charming photographic views of the choice coins.

A CHAPTER ON COINS.

(Continued.)

At the present time, to prevent their spreading, coins are struck in a band or collar. There are but few coins made now whose form is other than circular. There are the square ducat of Nuremberg; the octagonal pieces of Asam; the coins of Japan, of which the largest gold coin is 6 inches in length and $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in breadth, being worth \$100; and in our own country, the \$50 octagon

of California. Most of the common metals have been used as money. Under Lysurgus the Spartans banished gold and silver, and made the money of Sparta of iron. The money first used in Italy and Sicily was of bronze. The romans in the reign of Servius Tullius, 578—534 B. C., used coins of copper each of which weighed a pound. Silver coins were not issued by them until 281 B. C., and gold coins not till 207 B. C. The Britons in the year 55 B. C., had in use coins of tin, of brass, and of iron, also rings of gold and silver. Tin was also coined by Charles II. James II., in need of something better, used pewter and gun-metal. Russia uses coins of platinum.

The obverse of a coin is the side bearing the principal design. This design usually represents the head of the monarch, or some other illustrious personage; obverse is in common parlance called the head. The reverse is the side opposite the obverse. The legend is any words other than the name of the person represented. The field is the blank space on a coin. The exergue is the space around the designs, occupied by the inscription and date. In determining the side to which the figure on a coin faces, reference is made to the beholders right or left hand. In countries having several mints, the coins issued from each are distinguished by a small mark or letter, called the mint mark.

(To be Continued.)

MASON & CO'S, SECOND PHILADELPHIA COIN SALE, APRIL 13th AND 14th, 1869.

E. J. Farmer's collection of coins was disposed of at public sale, as above, and gave universal satisfaction to all concerned. There has seldom, if ever, been a sale that attracted as much attention as this. Not that the coins were superior to those offered in pre-

vious sales, but simply from the fact that several pieces were eyed with selfish longings by more than one collector. The excitement was created principally by the exhibition of the finest 1796, 16 star, U. S. Half dollar that had been seen in the country. Day after day came the lovers of numismatics to feast their eyes upon this beautiful coin. It was vaguely hinted that Uncle Sam might purchase the piece to improve his disreputable collection, at the marble mint in Chestnut St. Philadelphians said that the coin should not leave the city. If the mint did not purchase it, some bold, patriotic and sensible collector, would buy it himself, if he had to sell his new velocipede to raise the needful. There were other attractions in the sale. A magnificent series of Roman and Grecian Silver coins, many of them of the highest rarity; also a *unique* "Virginia shilling," or as Brother Cogan terms this peculiar little brass piece "store card." Let it be what it may,—and our word for it, there is a young mint for the happy possessor

of this piece, not far in the future,—it is of absorbing interest, and some close student of Virginia's romantic history may some day unravel the mystery which befores the proper understanding of this *rara avis*. Who was this 'Richard Dawson,' whose name is inscribed upon the card or coin, or medal, etc. How came the piece in England? Friend Mickley knows nothing of its history or origin.

Here, too, we had a 1794 U. S. dollar, 1796 $\frac{1}{2}$ cent, two pieces that creates a lively bidding and competition at any sale when offered. There were other pieces, and other reasons, which caused that large collection of gentlemen and scholars assembled in Birch & Son's spacious rooms, on Tuesday, April 13.

We intended to write a detailed description of the exciting scenes enacted over the choice specimens sold upon this occasion, but find our space too limited and must conclude by allusion to the prices realized for a few of the most desirable pieces.

COIN.	CONDITION,	BUYER,	PRICE,	REMARKS.
1794 Dollar,	Very fair,	Mason,	\$41 00,	Extremely rare.
1836 "	Proof,	Smith,	8 50,	Scarce.
1839 "	Good,	Mason,	14 00,	Very rare.
1851 "	Fine,	Cogan,	12 00,	"
1852 "	Good,	Mason,	10 00,	"
1796 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	Fine,	Mason,	100 00,	Extremely rare.
1796 Dime,	Fine,	Mason,	8 50,	Rare.
1793 Cent,	Fine,	Cogan,	19 00,	"
1791 S. E., Wash't. Ct.,	Very fine,	Randall,	18 00,	Very rare.
1836 Gold P. Dollar,	Proof,	Cogan,	11 00,	"
1849 California M. Dollar,	Very fine,	"	13 00,	"
1838 Gold Ring Dollar,	Proof,	"	13 00,	Extremely rare.
Virginia Shilling,	Fair,	"	44 00,	Unique.
J. Adam's Medal,	Very fine,	Mason,	10 00,	Extremely rare.
Annapolis 3d,	Fine,	"	10 00,	" "
1796 $\frac{1}{2}$ cent,	Poor,	Maris,	11 25,	" "

Among the beautiful Silver coins of Greece was a very ancient, very rare, and very fine tetradrachm—a coin of Cy-

zicus—which was boldly and liberally competed for, but Mr. Cogan won the prize by bidding \$41, which settled the

anxious ones heavily in their seats, and the balance of the Greeian pieees averaged about \$4 each. The highest price for a single pieee, \$100 for 1796 Half Dollar, was paid by us for a Boston customer. Upon this pieee we had a wide margin, but happily for the present owner, Mr. Cogan, who had an unlimited bid, withdrew, thinking the pieee had reached its fietitious value. There were 950 lots sold, realizing not far short of \$1500.

PECULIARITIES OF AMERICAN COINS.

No 14.

Of the so ealled "Kentucky eent," there are two varieties; differing in this respect, that while one set of dies were probably employed in making both, the planehet of one variety was thicker than the other, and had inscribed on the edge "Payable in Laneaster, London or Bristol." This pieee has all the appearances of the English Tokens, issued in great numbers between the years 1791 and 1796 inclusive. There are reasons for believing that it appeared during the earlier part of this period. Commeneing at the top of the pyramid of stars, and then reading from left to right the inscribed letters, they run as follows: K., R. I., Vt., V., N. Y., N. C., Md., Ms., S. C., N. H., D., P., N. J., G., S. C. The legend "Unanimity is the strength of Society," is so arranged as to leave insuffieient space between its commencement and termination, a cross being barely allowed room to separate them.

There are two other pieces known as Kentucky tokens. The reverse of one of them is inscribed, "One Half Penny, Copper Company of Upper Canada;" upon the other, "Payable by P. P. P. Myddleton." Their obverses are similar; having the legend, "British Set-

tlement of Kentueky, 1796." Little appears to be known of the history of these pieees, but their referenee to this eountry, render them objects of much interest.

Some notice was given in a previous article of eoins, that during the latter part of the last eentury were stamped at two different mints, or at different times in the same mint. There are others that bear the impress on one side of a coin of the same date and denomination, exepting that a depression is found where an elevation would be eaused by the die; as for an instance in the date. More than one such speeimen is now in my cabinet. They are found both in the Colonials, and in the U. S. issues, and are believed to have been pressed in coining against their immediate predeessor, which had been eaught and retained by one of the dies.

The reader of No. 13 "Peeuliarities," is asked to believe that the printer did not intend to make game of the writer when he made him speak of "crooked" instead of "eraeked" dies. Much may be overlooked by those who know the difficulty of avoiding errors in print, and partieularly so with a eareless eopy. When however, misprints occur of a eharacter ealeulated to misinform, or to hold up the author to ridicule, there seems to be more than a propriety in making the necessary eorreotion.

\$

COINS OF CANADA.

We have received a neatly bound and interesting work, of nearly 100 pages, entitled "Coins, Tokens, and Medals of the Dominion of Canada," By Alfred Sandham. This book is a useful guide to the numismatist, espeeially in the U. S., where we have been groping in the dark, and know very little of the numismatie history of Canada. This work,

with its 150 illustrations, puts us on the right track, and now we can go on with our Canadian series of coins, tokens, and Medals, without feeling the fear of collecting a lot of useless trash. We recommend this work to every collector, and in order to save the trouble of sending to Canada, our readers can enclose \$1, and 15 cents in stamps, and receive the book from us free of postage. Direct all orders to Mason & Co., No. 50 North 10th Street, Philadelphia.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Philadelphia, April 10th, 1869.

GENTS:—

I notice that you recommend your subscribers to be careful of their magazines, that is keep them clean, and as free from folds as possible, &c. &c. It seems to me you do not follow the advice you give; for several months I have received my magazine in a horrid condition, being rolled before posting. In my opinion it does them injury, besides rendering them unfit for binding. If no trouble, please do not wrap them as above shown, in future; one fold in the middle is sufficient. How is it you have never noticed the Numis. and Antiq. Soc., of this city? Is it beneath your notice? I should like to know something about it,

Please attend to the magazine matter, and oblige.

Yours very truly,

F. D. L.

[We would say in reply to the above, that we were under the impression that when rolled up, the magazine would be protected from injury, and nearly all our patrons object to the folds made by mailing the magazine as our correspondent suggests. It is downright carelessness in P. O. clerks to mash and jam our little pet until subscribers cry

out in alarm. We will hereafter deliver your magazine in person—clean and flat as a marble door step.

Why don't you send us the report of meetings of your Society, that we may indulge in a few remarks about its progress and prospects? It is our private opinion, perhaps too publicly expressed, that your society is too aristocratic and reticent for its own good. Why don't you propose that the Philadelphia Association subscribe for our work, and learn what is going on in the outer numismatic world, instead of gathering monthly, like a secret cabal, almost fearful that the wind will enter some crevice, and blow upon their proceedings. *Life and light* are wanted in the various Numismatic gatherings in this country. One is essential to existence, and the other important as a means of progress.—ED.]

Traverse City, Mich, March 2, '69.

Messrs. MASON & Co.,

Gents: Will you please inform me through your Magazine when dates were first used on coins? Yours truly,

T. T. BATES,

[Said to be in the 15th century—not positively known.—ED.]

Elmira, April 14th, 1869.

DEAR SIR:—

Please send me the following dates at the prices named:

1795, 15 cents, 1801, 5 cents,

1796, 25 cents, 1811, 15 cents.

Please send immediately, C. O. D.

Yours truly,

De B. G.

[We print the above with comments, as a means of instructing parties sending small orders. The expense on the above order, would equal the cost of the coins. We would advise all persons sending for small lots of \$3, and

under, to enclose the money. We will furnish such parties with proper reference as to our business standing and responsibility. M. & Co.]

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

R. P., OHIO.—You ask the origin of the "Liberty Head on American coinage." It is believed to have been borrowed from the French, but has been attributed to the Romans. The *flowing hair* Liberty Head was not approved by Henry W. De Saussure, who was Director of the U. S. Mint in 1795, and Stuart, the famous portrait painter, at the request of the Director, designed the so-called "Fillet Head," facetiously remarking that "Liberty on the previous coinage had run mad (referring to the flowing hair on the coins of 1793). We will bind it up and thus render her a steady matron"—Hence the Fillet Head of 1796 and other early dates of American coinage.

S. L.—Photograph received. Thanks for the club. \$5 is the price we get for the 1st Volume of our magazine. We are out of back numbers. You should have subscribed at the commencement of volume.

R. T.—1796, 1801, 1805, '06, '08, '11, '13, '21, '23, '57 U. S. cents, are all considered scarce and increase in value yearly. 1793 '99, 1804, '09, are certainly rare dates and always command good prices. Any uncirculated cent is of considerable fictitious value.

R. W. M. L.—Will notify you as soon as we get any of the Canadian coins you require. Please send list of pieces you allude to.

U. GIUSTA.—No's you inquire about brought the following prices, viz: 76, 77, 78, 79, 776, (12, 11, 2, 2 and 25 cts.)

To ———.—We have received package of silver and copper coins by Express—

no address. Cannot say whether a present, or sent to us on sale. Who knows?

F. J. M.—Did not succeed in getting anything in the sale for you.

COMPLIMENTARY.

Dudley R. Child, Esq., Sec'y of the N. E. Numismatic Society, Providence, R. I., writes us to send the back numbers of this magazine to the Society and enters its address upon our books for Vol. 3rd. This is not only complimentary but exhibits good sound sense and but follows the example of the various scientific associations throughout the country. We shall strive to merit all the kind favors of our numismatic friends and endeavor to make our Journal worthy their generous patronage.

GREAT MICKLEY SALE IN N. Y.

Nov. 1867.—Continued.

Oak Tree Penny, 1662. This piece was purchased by Mr. Mickley for genuine, and is by him believed to be so. It has recently been submitted to several of the best judges of coins, Mr. Strobridge amongst the number, who all concur in pronouncing it genuine. A New England Penny is figured and described by Folkes, and undoubtedly existed at the time he wrote. This was procured from England by Mr. M., and is perhaps the only existing specimen. It is in perfectly fine condition. \$52,50.

Pine Tree Penny, 1652; the Wyatt counterfeit. It will be observed that this is totally distinct from the one last described, in date and other particulars; fine, scarce. \$1,25.

Shilling of 1652, called by Mr. Mickley the Willow Tree Shilling; very fine indeed, about as good as when struck, and an exceedingly rare type. \$12,50.

Sixpence, 1652; tree of very curious design, somewhat like that on the last piece; legend on the obverse, MASATU-

SUSETS; inscription on the reverse equally singular; in perfectly fine condition, and probably unique. \$10.

Shilling 1652; of a type quite as remarkable as the last two pieces described, the device bearing more resemblance to the Palmetto than any other tree; in fair condition, rare. \$10.

TYPES AND VARIETIES OF THE U. S. CENTS, 1793.

BY E. M., JR.

(Continued.)

The seventh variety of the '93 cents presents on *obverse* a somewhat smaller bust of LIBERTY than the preceding varieties of the wreath type; the hair is full, wavy and flowing well back; the figures of date somewhat smaller and closer than preceding variety; letters of the word "Liberty" small and close. *Reverse* exhibits a small wreath, well united at top, the dotted sprigs which are interwoven with the leaves, are more erect than in No. 6. The words "ONE CENT" are in the centre of the coin, while former varieties are slightly above the centre in this respect. Bow at tie of wreath, slightly depressed at top, while the corners of bow are rounded. Letters of ONE CENT small, the "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA," similar in size to No. 6.

No. 8.—This variety is made on a smaller planchet than any other type or variety, excepting perhaps, No. 3. *Obverse*, Hair of LIBERTY flows straight back, is short, and not so wavy as No. 7; date and letters smaller than any of the preceding. *Reverse*, "ONE CENT" in centre of wreath. This variety exhibits a marked contrast upon the *reverse* to that of any other wreath '93, there being more blank space, and exhibits but few of the dotted sprigs, which mark so prominently the other varieties.

No. 9.—*Obverse*, Hair of LIBERTY fine, flowing back in nearly straight lines. The tri-leaved sprig under the bust well separated and starting from a horizontal stem, extending a short distance either side of the leaves—in this respect differing from all preceding varieties of the wreath cent of '93. Letters of LIBERTY small; date, very large. *Reverse*, No. 9 variety can always be known by the crowded appearance of the wreath and *legend* of this side, as it scarcely presents sufficient space to separate its designs. The wreath is full leaved and overcrowded with dotted sprigs (evidently intended to represent wheat). The bow at tie of wreath is flat at the top; letters medium size, 1-100 rather larger than Nos. 7 and 8; ONE CENT slightly above the centre of coin.

(To be Continued.)

NEW JOHNSON MEDAL.

By reference to an advertisement on last page, it will be seen that Mr. Hogan is agent for a very beautiful medal, recently struck by parties in N. Y. We have not yet received a copy of the new medal, or should give a detailed description of the same. Collectors wishing to obtain the medal can address, E. Cogan, 100 William St., New York.

I O. O. F. MEDAL.

Jas. Bingham, Jr., chairman committee on Medals, has issued a white metal medal, size 32, to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the organization of Odd-Fellowship. This medal is struck by authority of the Grand Lodge and Grand Encampment of Penna. *Obverse*, male and female figures, emblematic of the

Order, surrounded by semi-wreaths. Label below the figures containing the legend FRIENDSHIP, LOVE AND TRUTH. At the top an all seeing eye in the centre of radiating sun rays. Reverse, inscription as follows in seven lines: I. O. O. F. GRAND NATIONAL Celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary, Philada., April 26, 1869. Beneath the inscription are two twigs, interlocked in centre with three chain links. We mail this medal on receipt of 75 cents. Address this Office.

MASON & CO'S GREAT PHILA. SALE OF COINS AND CURI- OSITIES.

[Embracing near 50,000 relics and curiosities, and several thousand silver and copper coins].

Being the valuable collection of Dr. W. W. Morgan, of this State.

Our readers may have noticed the advertisement and editorials which have from time to time appeared in this journal, concerning Dr. Morgan's vast cabinet of curiosities, which have been offered at private sale. As the proprietor is about to leave this country for the sunny clime of Italia, the entire collection will be offered at public sale, by catalogue, sometime in June, of which due notice will be given in our next month's issue, and catalogues sent to every person wishing to get a relic, or curiosity from the multifarious articles which compose this unique combination of varieties.

This collection embraces many things of rare merit, some of which were found in Europe, Asia, Africa, and America; but they are principally from South America, *i. e.*, Brazil, Peru, Chili, Paraguay, Buenos Ayres, Corrientes, Entre Rios, Bolivia, Montevideo, Maldonado, Matto Grossa, Rosario, Salto, Gualaguaychu, Catamerca, Andes, Pysandu, Patago-

nia, Amazon, etc., etc. Included in this collection there are four others, formed by as many distinct persons. Namely, that of General L. Gomez, who fell in 1865, at the bombarding of Pysandu, and who spent a large amount of money, and more than a quarter of a century in forming it. Much of the collection of a French Naturalist who had them on exhibition in the city of Montevideo, also, the entire *mineral* collection of a German Naturalist, who spent six years and a considerable amount of money in forming it, in the very heart of the mineral regions of South America.

And the entire collection of a scientific gentleman who resides in Rio de Janeiro, which makes, including his own, five distinct collections *now combined in one*. Most of the minerals which he offers have been exposed to view only by the rains of centuries; and you doubtless know that surface minerals, in said regions, are now very seldom found, because European Naturalists, scientific men, and their agents, have for several years been scouring those regions, buying up all the minerals that could be found upon the surface of the earth and shipping them off; consequently, such as are now found must be dug for. Hence, you readily see that in all probability an opportunity to purchase such a combined and magnificent collection of minerals from said regions as he now offers, can never occur again at any price. Most of the minerals are not only valuable in scientific and geological points of view, but they possess rare beauty, both in form and color. The collection also contains ores from various regions, among which there are some dozen or more specimens of gold from the different mines in Brazil. And three very handsome Brazilian *crystals* containing silver, exceedingly rare. Several very fine specimens of petrified

wood, from Paraguay, also petrified leaves, worms, sea-stars, etc. A stone found in Rome whilst excavating in 1857, used by the Pagans to torture and kill the early Christians, and is believed to be the only one in America. A number of mounted birds and several hundred bird skins, many of which shows species never before seen in the United States. Skulls and skins of animals and reptiles, a gas-light lake, bows and arrows of various tribes of South American Indians, spears, war-clubs, lassos, ballos, etc.

Also, fragments of St. Paul's Cathedral at Rome, the Forts at Montevideo, the Rock of Gibraltar, the principal ancient Temples of Athens—Greece. A Chinese junk, harp, their reckoning table, and a coffin composed of ivory, ebony, sandal and camphor wood. Japanese cups, and waiters of mosaic work in wood. Serpents, lizards and phenomena. A few quadrupeds, such as monkeys, etc. A lamb with two heads, one body, two tails, and eight legs, accurately formed and in excellent condition; a calf with six legs; also a most extraordinary phenomenon, *i. e.* a large calf with but two legs, its eyes are in its mouth, the skeleton is preserved entire; a chicken with four legs. Gaucho's equipage for horse; Bolivian saddle, and ancient stirrups of Chili and China. Shells, marine and terrestrial; some hundreds of prepared insects; teeth of the whale, walrus, monkeys, and other animals.

Also, many antedeluvian fossils, including shells, teeth, vertebra, and other bones, among which are some of the Megotherium. Photographie views of the present Paraguayan War, and the bombshell which was thrown from the camp into the tent of the President of Montevideo. Lithographie views of the ancient costumes of the Argentine Republic and Uruguay; wet prepara-

tions, consisting of serpents, jaccaraes, lizards, rare ocean fish, and other objects; a few medals and several thousand pieces of foreign coin; silver, bronze, etc., some of whose antique years may be counted by thousands; some were excavated in Rome, and some are among the exhumed wonders of Pompeii and Herculaneum, whilst others were found in various parts of the world. 2 petrified eggs, supposed to be of the Albatross and Sea-Gull; also eggs of the ostrich, and other foreign birds. Indian relics, and many other curiosities, excessively rare.

WARNER BRO'S MEDAL.

Warner Bro's of this city issued an Odd Fellow's Medal, for the great 26th of April—a day long to be remembered in Philadelphia. Warners' medal is certainly the finest piece by far, and will have the largest sale. Obverse, a correct bust of Thos. Wilkey, the founder of Odd Fellowship in this country, over the bust is the name 'THOMAS WILKEY' below the bust, in two lines, "BORN JAN. 15, 1783; DIED, OCT. 19, 1861." Reverse, inscription "NATIONAL SEMI-CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF ODD-FELLOWSHIP, HELD AT PHILADELPHIA, APRIL 26, 1869. The emblematic *all-seeing eye*, with radiating sun rays is at the top of reverse, while the three chain links are arranged between the word "Philadelphia and date." Altogether a handsome medal reflecting credit upon the engraver, W. H. Key, and far more meritorious in design than the official medal of Bingham's. It is struck in white metal. We mail beautiful proofs of these medals for 50 cents each, postage pre-paid.

OUR PHILATELIC SALUTATORY

In making our humble bow, as manager of the postage stamp department of this Journal, and in assuming charge of all matters, financial, editorial, or otherwise connected with the duties of a general stamp department, we know full well how arduous the task, and how intricate and difficult the details of this—to Americans—new, yet charming pursuit. It is no light task to arrange and classify the multifarious variety of postage stamps, which are now or have been in use throughout the civilized world; it is no child's play to keep up the international correspondence necessary to a proper knowledge of Philately.

We have entered the sanctum, we have stripped for the work, and it is our purpose, aided by our kind friends and European correspondents, to present a full and succinct account of all matters connected with postage stamp collecting—destined to become in the United States one of the most interesting historical and pleasing pursuits to which the mind of man can be given. All new issues from Europe and other portions of the globe will be faithfully chronicled, and it is our purpose also to encourage *the true system* of collecting stamps; discourage and expose the infamous trade in counterfeits, now so general with small and unprincipled dealers in the large cities of this country. With a desire to make Philately a science of permanence and pleasure, and one that will give interest and instruction to the participator, we confidently enter upon the good work, looking for the patronizing smiles of our readers, and promising to execute the duties faithfully and truly, that Philately may receive that respect and attention at our hands which, as a science, it so richly merits.

L. W. DURBIN.

NEW ISSUES.

It is stated that a new Wurtemberg is in course of preparation. It will be of the value of 14 kreuzer and in color yellow.

The new stamps for the Transvaal Republic will be of the following values and colors: 1 d. black on green; 3 d. black on white; 6 d. black on blue; 1 s. black on red.

We have received specimens of the new U. S. 3c., printed in dark blue, making three different shades that have come under our notice, viz.: light blue, blue and dark blue.

Two Stamps of the value of 10 and 30 groshen have been emitted by the North German Confederation. The design is very similar to the 10 and 30 gr. of Prussia, but they are printed on white paper and perforated. The colors are drab and blue respectively.

An envelope stamp has at last appeared bearing the arms of Bavaria. It is impressed in pink on white paper, and of the value of 3 kreutzer.

St. Thomas having recovered from her last earthquake shock, has emitted new set of stamps of the following values: $\frac{1}{4}$, 1, 2 and 3 centavos and $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2 and 4 reals. In the centre appears a steamship to right, surmounted by the arms of the mother country,—Denmark. St. Thomas, Porto Rico above, value below.

From the *American Journal of Philately* we learn that the new Wirtemberg 1 kr. has been impressed on a newspaper wrapper; and also that the United States of Columbia have emitted a stamp of the value of 5 centavos, identical in design to the 10c described in our Feby No., the color is yellow ochre.

VOLUME SECOND.

A bound volume of Vol. 2d on hand and for sale, price \$3 00.

STAMP EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT.

Any of our correspondents having stamps to exchange, can have their requests placed under this head free of charge. All exchanges will pass through this office unless otherwise requested.

GENTLEMEN,

I have a number of Postage and Revenue stamps that I will exchange with D. W. C. If he will address a letter to me I would be very glad to exchange.

Yours respectfully,

BERNARD GASSELL,
St. Paul, Minn.

DEALERS IN BOGUS STAMPS.

Under this head we intend inserting the address of all parties dealing in counterfeit stamps, when accompanied by undoubted evidence of the fact. We have received proofs that the following parties are not above suspicion, in regard to dealing in *fac similis*:

E. TRIFET & Co., Boston, Mass.

S. ALLEN TAYLOR, "

PHILATELIC BREVITIES.

Under this head we will be thankful to our friends for any "items" clipped from exchanges bearing upon the subject of Postage Stamps. In our next will appear an elaborate criticism upon the new issue of U. S. Postage Stamps.

ANSWERS TO PHILATELISTS.

B. D.—In making a collection of revenue stamps, it is necessary to collect the different varieties. The album we sell for \$1.00 and upwards contain spaces for from 1200 to 5000 stamps.

THE NEW POSTAGE STAMPS.

Our old postage stamps were really neat and pleasing in their appearance. They were national and American, as

they ought to have been. The head of Washington was venerable, and our three cent stamps were as perfect as they well could be. So also, the one-cent stamp, with the head of Franklin, was equally appropriate. There was a fitness and congruity in putting the head of the old thrifty economist on the one cent stamp. Our youth were reminded thereby of the wise saws and sayings of "Poor Richard," and it taught them that if they learned to save the cents the dollars were more likely to take care of themselves. But now think of the miserable, confused-looking thing, with its wretched printing, that the post office has given us for the present three cent stamps. It is neither historical, national, beautiful, nor anything but a paltry evidence of the fact that some engraver has got paid or will get paid for a job that ought never to have been done. Can our authorities not let well enough alone?

Canada, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia all have railroad engines such as ours. What is there in a big chimney on a railway carriage to indicate the nationality of our postal system? Aye, but there are the words "United States Postage" on the stamp. Just so. We remember to have seen a boy's drawing on a sheet of paper with the words "This is a church" underneath, and certainly the artistic performance needed the index; but not more so than the new stamps requires a similar proclamation to tell the world what it means. And then again look at the printing of the word "Postage." Can our engravers do nothing better than that? We hope that the contractors have been paid for their work. If so, then let the Post Office folks give us back again our old head of Washington, and save us from looking at the contemptible thing we are now getting in its stead.